



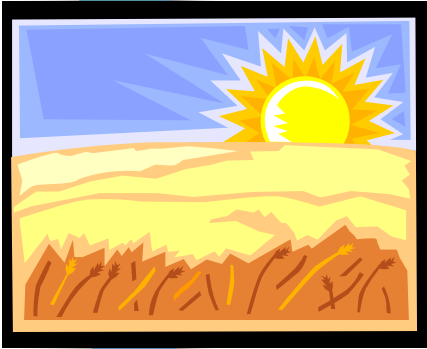
Montana Drought Advisory Committee



NASS, USDA, Montana
Field Office

Peggy Stringer
Director

May 29, 2008



Winter Wheat May 1 Production Forecast

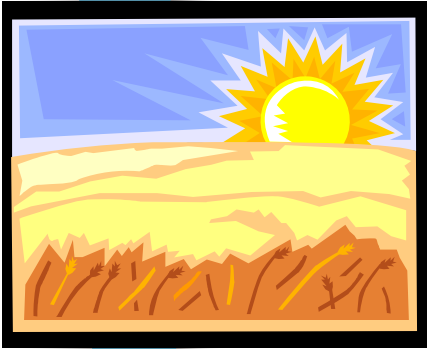
Planted Acreage

- 2.7 million acres.
- 460,000 acres more than previous year.

Expected Harvested Acreage

- 2.6 million acres.
- 410,000 more than last year.

May 29, 2008



Winter Wheat May 1 Production Forecast

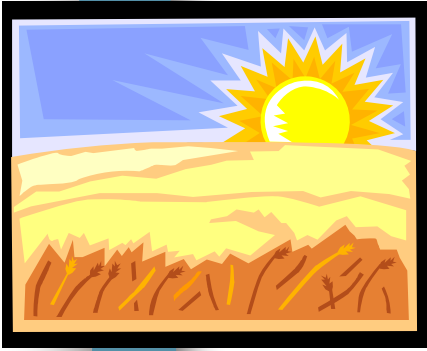
Total Montana Production

- 88.4 million bu.
- Up 5.2 million bu from 2007

Yield

- 2008 yield forecast 34 bu per ac.
 - Down 4 bu from 2007 final yield.

May 29, 2008



Winter Wheat May 1 Production Forecast

May 1st is too early.

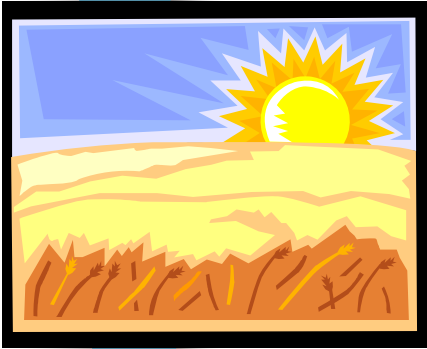
We will know more on June 10 when

- ❑ June 1st Yield Forecast is released

and

- ❑ June 30th when June Acreage released.

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Hay Stocks May 1

1.03 million tons

35% more than last year.

Hay production in 2007:

5.15 million tons

19% higher than 2006 production.

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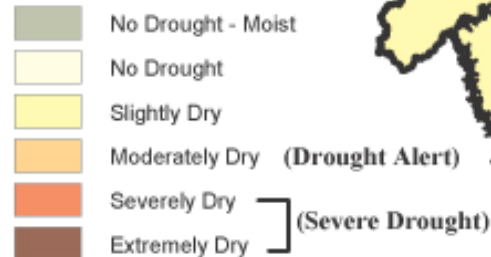
Montana Drought Status by County - May, 2007

Map Key

 Continental Divide

Drought Status

May 2007



Drought Impact Types - A = Agricultural - Soil Moisture, Range conditions

H = Hydrological - Water Supplies, Streamflow, Groundwater

Drought Alert - Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages local officials to convene local drought committees.

Severe Drought - Local officials should have local drought planning efforts underway or should reconvene the local drought committee at the earliest opportunity.

For recommended responses, see the Montana Drought Plan.



<http://nr.is.mt.gov/drought/>



<http://drought.mt.gov/>

Montana County Drought Status

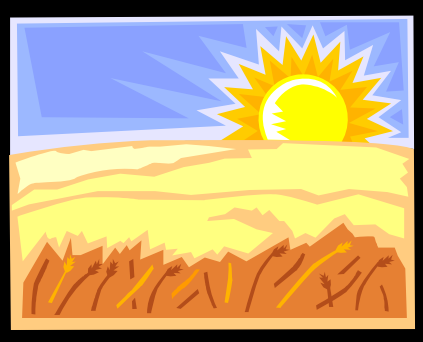
Severe drought conditions have occurred over large areas of Montana since 2000. Long-term drought impacts, including low soil moisture, reservoir storage, groundwater, and reduced forest fuel moisture levels continue to exist in some areas of the state where relief was not significant or has occurred and has since been lost again.

The Governor's Drought Advisory Committee determines a monthly drought status for each county year round. The drought status map is used to alert decision makers and local officials to the likelihood of drought conditions so timely responses and measures can be taken appropriately.

Drought Alert: After May 15 and at the Moderately Dry Status Level, the Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages local officials to address the prospect of drought and consider convening a local drought committee.

Severe Drought: After May 15 and at the Severely Dry Drought Status level, local officials should have local drought planning efforts underway and if not, should convene their local committee at the earliest opportunity.

For information about how the drought status maps are determined or to learn more about recommended responses to drought see the Montana Drought Response Plan. (<http://nr.is.state.mt.us/drought/committee/DroughtP07.pdf>)



Ekalaka Main Street after storm May 2, 2008

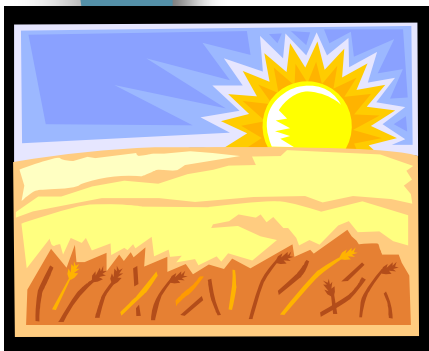


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Stream flow conditions near Many Glacier Hotel

May 19, 2008





Crop Weather Report

Week Ending May 18, 2008

☺ Golden Triangle (North Central) Area Dismal, below normal precipitation since April 1 and has received dismal, below normal precipitation since Oct.1, 2007

☺ This area accounts for over half of Montana's winter wheat production.

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Montana Drought Status by County - May, 2008

25% wheat
production

34% wheat
production

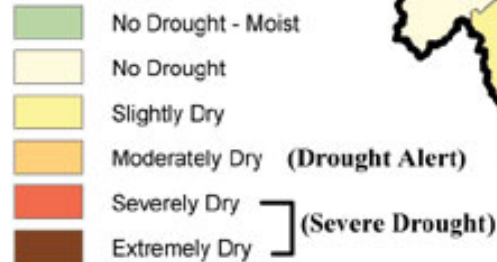
Map Key

 Continental Divide

 Drought Impact Type

Drought Status

May 2008



Drought Impact Types - **A** = Agricultural - Soil Moisture, Range conditions

H = Hydrological - Water Supplies, Streamflow, Groundwater

Drought Alert - Governor's Drought

Advisory Committee strongly encourages local officials to convene local drought committees.

Severe Drought - Local officials should have local drought planning efforts underway or should reconvene the local drought committee at the earliest opportunity.

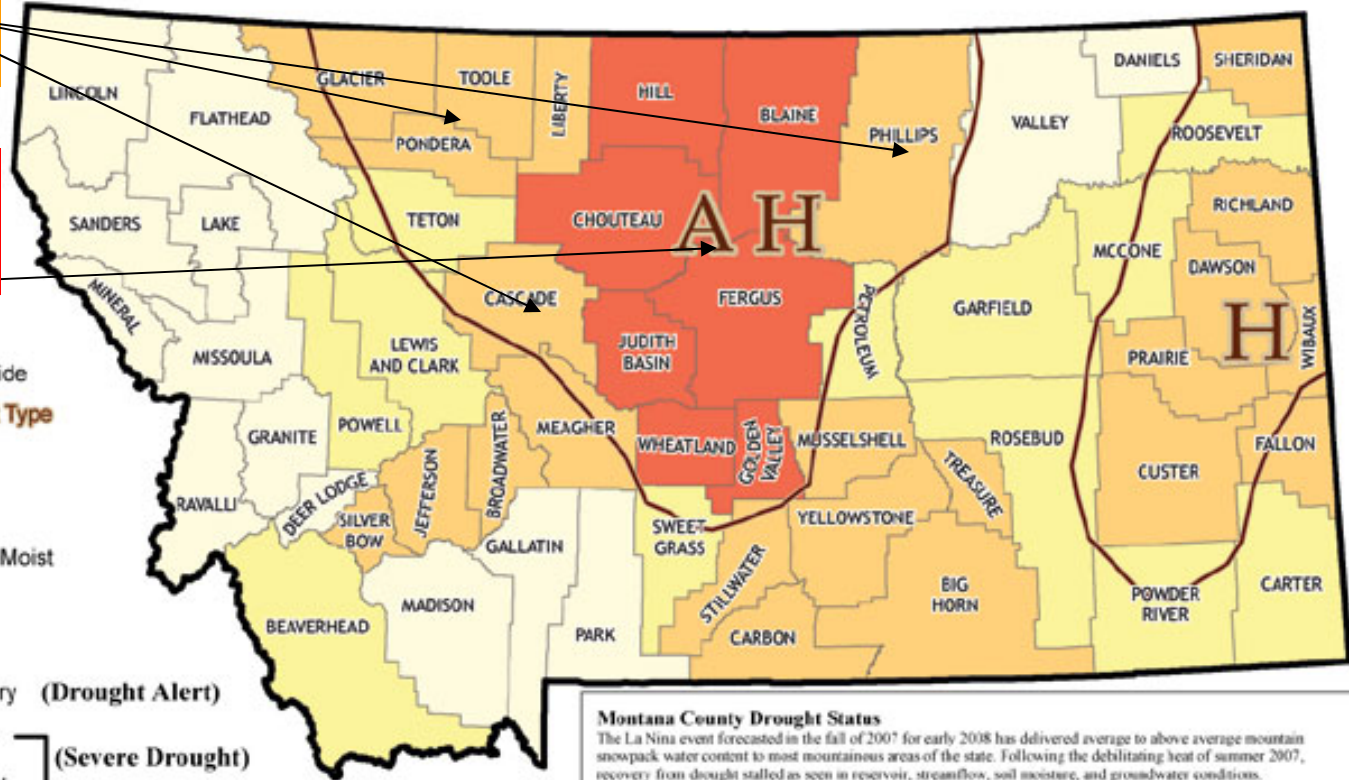
For recommended responses, see the Montana Drought Plan.



<http://nris.mt.gov/drought/>



<http://drought.mt.gov/>



Montana County Drought Status

The La Nina event forecasted in the fall of 2007 for early 2008 has delivered average to above average mountain snowpack water content to most mountainous areas of the state. Following the debilitating heat of summer 2007, recovery from drought stalled as seen in reservoir, streamflow, soil moisture, and groundwater conditions. The plains areas of the state remain essentially where they were at the end of the 2007 growing season - dry with little snow cover. The period from December through March brings only about two to three inches in a normal year to plains and valley elevations and spring storms will be important to recovery in these areas. But the water supply outlook looks very favorable as of mid-February for surface water dependent valleys on both sides of the Continental Divide as the mountains reach the two-third mark of the snow water accumulation period for the water year. The concern at this time is whether the state will experience an early snowmelt of mountain snowpack, as in 2007, or a normal runoff period from mid-May through June.

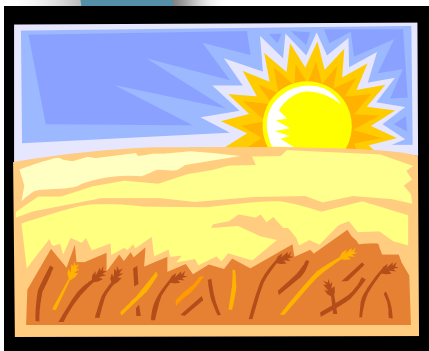
The Governor's Drought Advisory Committee assesses water supply and moisture conditions on a monthly basis to determine drought status for each county of the state. The drought status map is used primarily to promote awareness of drought and to alert Montanans to impending drought conditions so they may respond appropriately.

Drought Alert: Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages watershed groups and county drought committees to convene and undertake planning for drought.

Severe Drought: Local officials should have local drought planning underway or should convene local drought planning at the earliest opportunity.

For information about how the drought status maps are determined or to learn more about recommended responses to drought see the Montana Drought Response Plan.
(<http://nris.state.mt.us/drought/committee/DroughtP07.pdf>)

\$671
Million

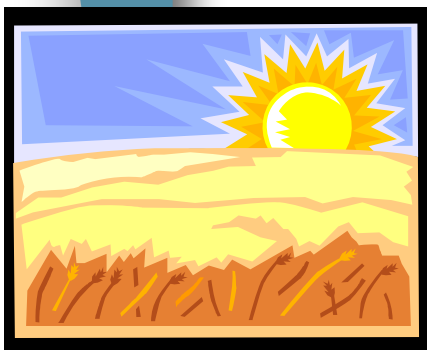


Crop Weather Report

Week Ending May 18, 2008

- ☺ Cool temperatures, and dry conditions have hurt winter wheat
- ☺ Farmers are re-seeding winter wheat fields to spring wheat & other small grain crops
- ☺ Recent warm temperatures with little to no rainfall has allowed farmers to seed crops, but has stressed already seeded crops

May 29, 2008



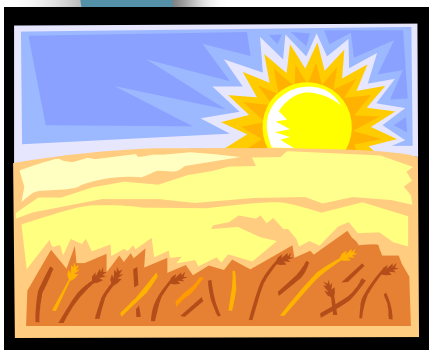
Crop Weather Report

Week Ending May 18, 2008

Topsoil Moisture Behind Last Year & 5-Year Avg.

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	57%	41%	16%	33%
Adequate	42%	57%	68%	60%
Surplus	1%	2%	16%	7%

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Crop Weather Report

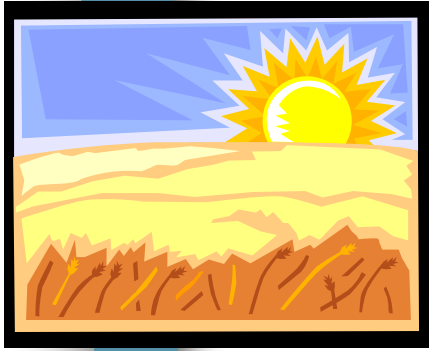
Week Ending May 18, 2008

Subsoil Moisture

Behind Last Year & 5-Year Avg.

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	75%	72%	31%	50%
Adequate	24%	27%	60%	47%
Surplus	1%	1%	9%	3%

May 29, 2008

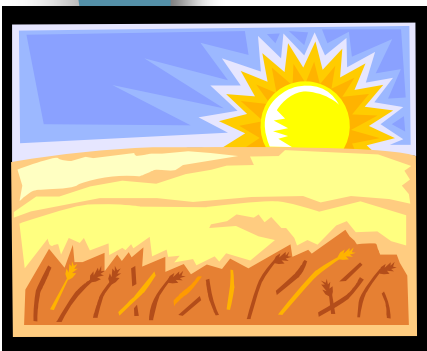


Crop Weather Report

Week Ending May 18, 2008

- Winter wheat crop rated poorly, compared to last year and the five-year average.
- Some winter wheat being reseeded to spring wheat or other small grain crops.

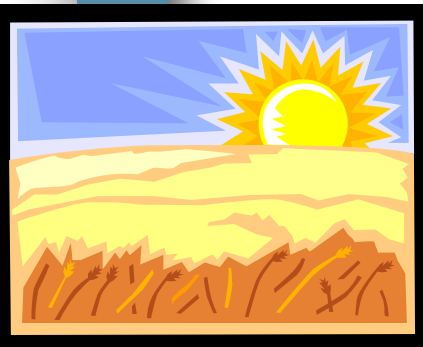
May 29, 2008



Winter Wheat Crop Condition Worse than Last Year & 5-Yr Avg.

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	14%	26%	36%	20%	4%
Last week	10%	19%	39%	30%	2%
Last year	0%	3%	21%	44%	32%
5-yr Avg	3%	11%	28%	42%	16%

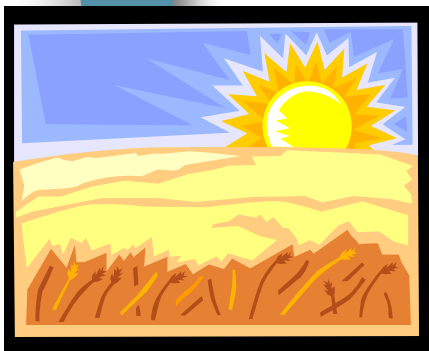
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Crop Progress Percent

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Spring wheat				
seeded	93%	83%	89%	87%
emerged	52%	24%	52%	50%
Barley				
seeded	94%	81%	91%	88%
emerged	51%	30%	62%	59%

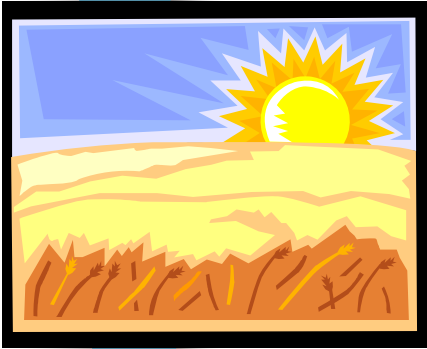
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Crop Progress Percent

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Corn				
planted	59%	57%	79%	62%
emerged	14%	9%	39%	20%

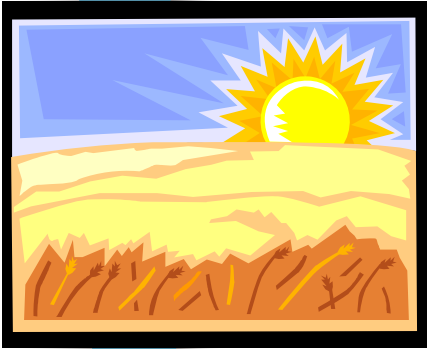
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Livestock

- Most pastureland open for grazing
- Thirty-seven percent of cattle and thirty-two percent of sheep still receiving supplemental feed
- Fifty-one percent of both cattle and sheep have moved to summer ranges.

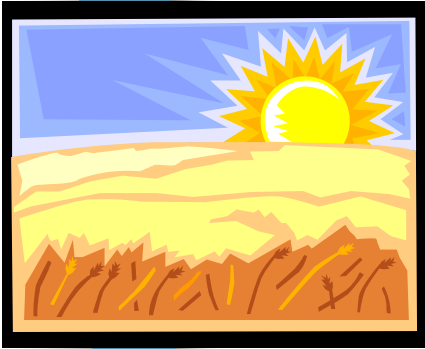
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Livestock Grazing

- Pasture and range conditions are worse than last year & 5-year average.
- Pastures & ranges greening up slowly, with little available forage.
- Stockwater supplies are short in central & eastern area of the state

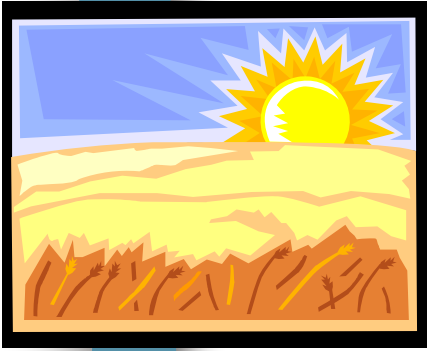
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Range & Pasture Condition Percent

	Very poor- poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	34%	32%	27%	7%
Last week	44%	31%	20%	5%
Last year	7%	29%	48%	16%
5-yr Avg	23%	33%	35%	9%

May 29, 2008



Summary

- Topsoil and subsoil moisture is significantly worse than last year
- Limited moisture has had a negative effect on winter wheat condition and progress.
- Irrigation water supplies look good.
- Future crop conditions depend on getting more moisture.

May 29, 2008

Summary

- The only hope is to eat chocolate while doing a rain dance!

